

What I claim is :

1. An apparatus for capturing, conveying and loading fowl into selected compartments of a plurality of storage cages, comprising:
 - a) a frame;
 - b) forward conveying means pivotally mounted to said frame for capturing said fowl and conveying said fowl proximate said frame;
 - c) rearward conveying means pivotally mounted to said frame, independent of said forward conveying means, for receiving fowl from said forward conveying means, conveying said fowl from said frame and discharging said fowl into selected ones of said compartments of forming said transport cages, wherein said rearward conveying means is pivotally mounted to said frame for movement about both a horizontal axis and a vertical axis to accommodate the discharge of said fowl into said compartments which may be disposed both vertically and laterally in relation to said frame.
2. An apparatus is described in claim 1 further comprising pivot means rotably mounted to said frame and to which said forward and rearward conveying means are mounted to accommodate independent pivotal movement of said forward and rearward conveying means about a singular vertical axis and wherein a rearward end of said forward conveying means from which said fowl are discharged is always maintained about a receiving end of said rearward conveying means irregardless of the angular relationship, both vertically and horizontally of said forward and rearward conveying means.

3. An apparatus as described in claim 2 wherein said forward and rearward conveying means are each pivotally mounted to said pivot means for vertical motion relative thereto.
4. An apparatus as described in claim 3 wherein said pivot means comprises:
 - a) a primary slewing ring mounted to said frame for rotation about a vertical axis,
 - b) a primary slewing frame connected to said primary slewing ring and pivotally connected to said forward conveyor means,
 - c) a secondary slewing ring rotatably mounted to said frame in coaxial relation to said primary slewing ring, and
 - d) a secondary slewing frame connected to said secondary slewing ring and pivotally connected to said rearward conveyor means.
5. Apparatus as described in claim 4 wherein said primary slewing frame comprises:
 - a) a support member connected to said primary slewing ring and extending horizontally therefrom, and
 - b) one or more fulcrum members connected to said support member opposite said primary slewing ring and in vertically angular relation to said support member, wherein said forward conveyor means is pivotally connected to an upper end of said fulcrum member for rotational movement about a horizontal axis.
6. Apparatus as described in claim 5 further comprising first means connected to said primary slewing frame and to said forward conveyor for urging said forward

conveyor about said horizontal axis.

7. An apparatus as described in claim 6 wherein said first urging means comprises:
 - a) one or more lift arms pivotally connected to a lower end of said fulcrum members and slidably connected to said forward conveyor; and
 - b) a plurality piston and shaft assemblies pivotally connected to said fulcrum members and to said lift arms for selectively urging said lift arms about a horizontal axis and, correspondingly, rotating said forward conveyor vertically about another horizontal axis located proximate said upper end of said fulcrum members.
8. An apparatus as described in claim 4 wherein said secondary slewing frame comprises one or more plates pivotally connected to said rearward conveying means.
9. An apparatus as described in claim 8 further comprising second means pivotally connected to said secondary slewing frame and to said rearward conveying means for urging said rearward conveying means about a horizontal axis.
10. An apparatus as described in claim 9 wherein said second urging means comprises one or more second piston and shaft assemblies pivotally connected to said secondary slewing frame and to said rearward conveying means.
11. An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said forward conveying means comprises:
 - a) forward conveyor frame pivotally mounted to said frame;
 - b) a plurality of rollers mounted within said forward conveying frame

for rotational movement;

- c) a forward conveyor belt supported by said forward rollers in pressed contact therewith such that rotation of one or more of said forward rollers will urge said belt in continuous motion about said forward rollers and along said forward frame; and
- d) forward gathering means connected to said forward conveyor frame for engaging one or more of said fowl and thrusting said fowl onto said forward conveyor belt so that said fowl are transported on said forward conveyor belt from said gathering means to a rearward end of said forward conveying means which is disposed above a receiving end of said rearward conveying means and wherein said fowl are discharged from said rearward end of said forward conveying means and fall vertically to said receiving end of said rearward conveying means.

- 12. An apparatus as described in claim 11 wherein said forward gathering means comprises a plurality of forward fingered drums rotatably mounted to said forward conveyor frame for rotary movement about substantially parallel axis wherein each of said drums are driven in opposite rotary directions relative to adjacent others of said drums.
- 13. An apparatus as described in claim 12 further comprising a pair of flexible combs each connected to opposite sides of said forward conveyor frame and proximate said forward fingered drums for containing said fowl on said forward conveyor belt, wherein each comb includes flexible teeth which will bend to allow the

discharge of fowl from said forward conveyor when said fowl exceed a predetermined density thereon.

14. An apparatus as described in claim 11 further comprising a discharge hood connected to said rearward end of said front conveyor frame and defining a top panel connected to and supported by two side panels which are connected to said forward conveyor frame and positioned laterally of said forward conveyor belt, and a rear panel connected to said side panels and said top panel opposite said forward conveyor belt wherein said top, rear and side panels limit horizontal movement of fowl discharged from said forward conveyor belt but allow said fowl to drop downward from said forward conveyor belt and onto said receiving end of said rearward conveying means.
15. An apparatus as described in claim 4 wherein said secondary slewing frame comprises one or more vertically disposed plates pivotally connected to said rearward conveying means.
16. An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said rearward conveying means comprises:
 - a) a first rearward conveyor pivotally mounted to said frame for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis and a vertical axis; and
 - b) a second rearward conveyor slidably connected to said first rearward conveyor for sliding extension and retraction relative thereto.
17. An apparatus as described in claim 16 further comprising means connected to said first and second rearward conveyors for automatically urging said second

rearward conveyor in sliding motion relative to said first rearward conveyor concurrently with and proportionately responsive to the pivotal movement of said rearward conveying means about said horizontal axis.

18. An apparatus as described in claim 17 wherein said automatic urging means comprises a plurality of linkage members, each pivotally connected to one of the others of said plurality of linkage members and wherein one of said linkage members is pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor and another of said linkage members is connected to said first rearward conveyor.
19. An apparatus as described in claim 16 wherein said automatic urging means comprises;
 - a) a first linkage member pivotally secured to said frame,
 - b) a second linkage member pivotally connected to said first linkage member and pivotally connected to said first rearward conveyor;
and
 - c) a third linkage member pivotally connected to said second linkage member and pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor, wherein upward pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor will, via said first, second and third linkage members, urge said second rearward conveyor in sliding rotation along said first rearward conveyor and away from said frame and wherein downward pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor will urge said second rearward conveyor in sliding motion along said first rearward conveyor and toward said frame.

20. An apparatus as described in claim 18 wherein said second linkage member comprises a first linkage arm pivotally connected to said first linkage member and a second linkage arm pivotally connected to said third linkage member, wherein said first linkage arm is joined to said second linkage arm in fixed angular relation thereto.
21. An apparatus as described in claim 16 comprising means for selectively urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding motion relative to said first rearward conveyor.
22. An apparatus as described in claim 17 wherein said automatic urging means comprises means for selectively urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding motion relative to said first rearward conveyor.
23. An apparatus as described in claim 21 or claim 22 wherein said selective urging means comprises a piston and shaft assembly pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor.
24. An apparatus as described in claim 19 wherein said third linkage member comprises a piston and shaft assembly pivotally connected to said second linkage member and pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor.
25. An apparatus as described in claim 15 wherein said rearward conveying means comprises;
- a) a first rearward conveyor pivotally connected to said one or more vertical plates for pivotal motion about a horizontal axis, and;
 - b) a second rearward conveyor slidably connected to said first rearward conveyor for sliding movement relative thereto.

26. An apparatus as described in claim 25 comprising means for automatically urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding movement relative to said first rearward conveyor concurrently with and proportionately responsive to the pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor about a horizontal axis.
27. An apparatus as described in claim 26 wherein said automatic urging means comprises;
- a) a first linkage member pivotally connected to said secondary slewing frame.
 - b) a second linkage member pivotally connected to said first linkage member and pivotally connected to said first rearward conveyor; and;
 - c) a third linkage member pivotally connected to said linkage member and connected to said second rearward conveyor.
28. An apparatus as described in claim 27 wherein said second linkage member comprises:
- a) a first linkage arm pivotally connected to said first rearward conveyor and pivotally connected to said first linkage member; and
 - b) a second linkage arm pivotally connected to said first rearward conveyor and pivotally connected to said third linkage member, wherein said first linkage arm is connected to said second linkage arm and extends therefrom in fixed angular relation thereto.
29. An apparatus as described in claim 27 wherein said third linkage member comprises means for selectively urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding

motion relative to said first rearward conveyor.

30. An apparatus as described in claim 27 wherein said third linkage member comprises a piston and shaft assembly for selectively urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding motion relative to said first rearward conveyor.
31. An apparatus as described in claim 4 further comprising means connected to said secondary slewing frame for urging said rearward conveying means about said horizontal axis.
32. An apparatus for as described in claim 16 further comprising means connected to said second rearward conveyor for discharging said fowl from said second rearward conveyor.
33. An apparatus for the capturing and loading of fowl comprising:
 - a) a frame;
 - b) a first rearward conveyor pivotally mounted to said frame for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis;
 - c) a second rearward conveyor slidably connected to said first rearward conveyor for sliding movement relative thereto; and
 - d) means mounted to said first and second rearward conveyors for automatically urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding movement relative to said first rearward conveyor concurrently with and proportionately responsive to the pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor.
34. An apparatus as described in claim 33 wherein said automatic urging means comprises a plurality of linkage member, each pivotally connected to one of the

others of said plurality of linkage members and wherein one of said linkage members is pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor and another of said linkage members is connected to said first rearward conveyor.

35. An apparatus as described in claim 33 wherein said automatic urging means comprises;
- a) a first linkage member pivotally secured to said frame,
 - b) a second linkage member pivotally connected to said first linkage member and pivotally connected to said first rearward conveyor;
and
 - c) a third linkage member pivotally connected to said second linkage member and pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor, wherein upward pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor will, via said first, second and third linkage members, urge said second rearward conveyor in sliding rotation along said first rearward conveyor and away from said frame and wherein downward pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor will urge said second rearward conveyor in sliding motion along said first rearward conveyor and toward said frame.
36. An apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said second linkage member comprises a first linkage arm pivotally connected to said first linkage member and a second linkage arm pivotally connected to said third linkage member, wherein said first linkage arm is joined to said second linkage arm in fixed angular relation thereto.

37. An apparatus as described in claim 32 wherein said discharging means includes a discharge carriage pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor for movement laterally thereof; and a rearward fingered drum rotably connected to said discharge carriage for engaging said fowl and discharging said fowl from said second rearward conveyor.